

# MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 49

DEC. 9-15

## HOGAN: CHAMP AGAIN BUT JUST FOR A DAY

**SAN ANTONIO----**The delivery of WWF syndicated TV shows to local stations Wednesday gave it away, as if the ending of *THIS TUESDAY IN TEXAS* had not already tipped it off. Hulk Hogan's victory over the Undertaker in 13:10 to regain the WWF world title a fourth time went up in the same ashes which Hogan threw in the face of Undertaker (Mark Callaway).

World Wrestling Federation figurehead guru Jack Tunney ruled Hogan's victory was negated by the hurling of the ashes, six days after Hogan lost the belt to Undertaker. The ruling was already on tapes distributed to the WWF network at midweek.

Hogan entered the ring fired up but fell victim to an almost carbon copy of Undertaker's Nov. 27 dominance with deliberate power moves.

At the 10-minute mark, Hogan began his patented Superman comeback when "real" world champion Ric Flair approached the ring. Tunney, stationed at ringside to stop interference, attempted to block Flair. Hogan dashed outside the ring and bashed Flair with a chair which sent the ex-NWA king crashing onto Tunney.

Paul Bearer (James Woody/Percy Pringle) attempted to ambush Hogan but Hulk decked him at the 12:15 mark. Bearer dropped the trademark urn. Hogan grabbed it and dumped the ashes in his hand and threw them into Undertaker's face and the distracted ref counted the pinfall at 13:10. But as Hogan was preparing to toss the ashes, a reviving Flair lifted Tunney to the edge of the apron, apparently to see the de-urning of Undertaker.

Hogan grabbed the belt and began his usual posedown. But as *THIS TUESDAY IN TEXAS* ended its satellite time, the final image was of a composed Tunney having a pointed discussion with the referee, cluing a disputed finish.

**MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS.** Some are arguing this was a better match than at *SURVIVOR SERIES* but, in our view, it was just enough to get the storyline to the next-step. It was effective in that the kids, who made their parents pay for this sequel, were left with the impression of a Hogan victory. But it was hardly an extraordinary contest.

### Hart Retains I-C Belt Over Keirn

**SAN ANTONIO----**Ending what was one of the slowest-paced Bret Hart matches ever, the Hitman applied his scorpion (sharpshooter) to Skinner (Steve Keirn) to retain the WWF Intercontinental title Tuesday night here.

The lidlifter of the mini pay-per-view special saw Hart get off to a hot start and Keirn spend a heavy portion of the first four minutes stalling outside.

Hart scored the pin in 13:39.

### Savage Avenges Jake But Liz Gets Deckerd

**SAN ANTONIO----**In what may go down as one of the more controversial post-match finishes of 1991, Randy Savage defeated Jake Roberts in 6:46 here Tuesday night but Savage's wife, Liz Poffo, was creamed by Roberts after the bout.

Savage went after Jake before the bell and was a whirlwind in the first 1:20. But Jake rallied with a clothesline and took control with a series of knees and kicks.

But Randy revived to come off the top with his bombs away elbow for the victory. Savage then attempted to infuse more punishment with the ringside bell but Roberts, feigning a rib injury, gained control of the bell and delivered a DDT to Randy on the bell and the mat. As Liz came screaming to ringside, Jake pounded a third DDT on Savage in front of Liz.

With Randy out, Jake put on his gloves, picked up Liz by the hair and decked her across the ring. WWF figurehead president Jack Tunney came out, ostensibly to end the carnage, and Liz and Randy helped each other back to the curtain.

**MATCH RATING: DRAW-PLUS.** Not the best or worst these two have ever done but this will no doubt recharge the debate over abuse of women in pro wrestling and Roberts has been involved in virtually every tasteless angle of note in wrestling in the last quarter of 1991.

### OTHER BOUTS

Davey Boy Smith d. Warlord with a crucifix backslide in 3:48. **MATCH RATING: BOMB-PLUS.**

Ted DiBiase/Repo Man d. Tito Santana/Virgil when Repo (Barry Darsow) hit Virg from behind to set up Ted's pin in 12:40. **MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD.**



## Buy-Rates: Still No Agreement

NEW YORK---Disagreements remain over the eventual buy-rate for the WWF SURVIVOR SERIES but analysts say it's too early to tell projections on THIS TUESDAY IN TEXAS.

Titan Sports officials claim a 2.4 per cent buy rate (396,000 homes) for SURVIVOR, while researchers for two pay-per-view companies say final figures, which won't be known for at least 45 days, will rest at 1.8% (297,000 homes), which would be the lowest-ever Thanksgiving week buy percentage for Titan.

WWF officials were projecting a 1.2% buy-rate for TUESDAY but pay analysts told us Friday they won't be ready to make a projection until this week.

Even if the lowest projection holds for SURVIVOR, revenues will be \$7.5 million.

## Global: 5 Titles For Cool Yule

ATLANTA---A Christmas Day spectacular for the Global Wrestling Federation will feature five title bouts at the Dallas Sportatorium (Globaldome).

All matches will be 2-out-of-3 falls. The Patriot (if Del Wilkes is still in) will defend the North American title vs. Scott Anthony; John Tatum/Rod Price put up the GWF tag title vs. Bill Irwin/Black Bart (bunkhouse rules); Lightning Kid (Sean Waltham) has a light heavy title defense vs. Jerry Lynn; Eddie Gilbert defends the TV title vs. Terry Garvin (three fans will search Eddie before the match); and Lady X (Peggy Lee Leathers) will defend the LPWA belt against an unnamed opponent.

## CHRISTMAS SIX-PACK

We're getting a number of gift orders for this holiday offer. Why not you? To send a gift of the last six issues of MATWATCH (to someone other than at your address), it's only \$5. Send to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

## End of 34-Year Era

# BELL TOLLS FOR PORTLAND

It was one of those announcements you know is inevitable but keep hoping will be delayed. But Tuesday morning's edition of *THE OREGONIAN* in Portland tolled a final bell. KPTV is canceling Don Owen's venerable *PORTLAND WRESTLING* Dec. 28.

KPTV management cited declining ratings and increased production costs as prime reasons for dropping the last of the original NWA-affiliated territorial shows. The Portland show had been on a tenuous edge since the NWA's decline and had gradually eroded from a strong prime-time slot to a late-night time period with fewer viewers.

Ironically, the move comes at the tail end of wrestling's 50th anniversary on television, as detailed in an eight-part series to be concluded in the next two issues of MATWATCH.

The 79-year-old Owen began his series as *BIG TIME WRESTLING* on KPTV in 1957, when the station was on UHF channel 27. "In those days, they didn't have a lot of cameras to cover baseball and football," Owen told writer Jeff Baker. "But with wrestling, the ring was stationary. You could just point the cameras and leave it there."

In the late 1950s, the show moved to KOIN (channel 6), where it remained until 1967. By then, KPTV had moved to channel 12 and has aired the series since. Owen's matches were broadcast live until 1978, when they went to tape delay. Originally, the series was widely carried in both Oregon and Washington but the Seattle market dropped it more than two years ago.

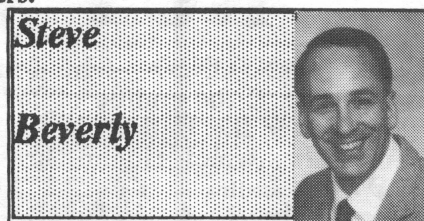
Economics have claimed virtually all of the nation's locally-produced wrestling series with the exception of WMC-TV's *USWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING* in Memphis, the only weekly local live show left in the U.S. Whereas the USWA still boasts strong sales in its traditional Saturday morning slot, Owen fell victim to sponsorship woes. His lead sponsor for years, Tom Peterson Appliances, has filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy and has ceased underwriting the broadcasts.

Owen told the Portland newspaper he has shopped the show around to other stations but is pessimistic about his chances. "Nobody wants to take on the cost of producing it," said Owen. Without acknowledging it openly, Owen hinted the TV cancellation would mean the end of his promotion.

In recent years, *PORTLAND WRESTLING* has more often than not been a bastion of fresh air with its multi-angle, hot feud storylines. Much of the show's improvement in production values can be linked to the quiet, guiding hand of Roddy Piper—who modernized the graphics, music and characterizations (Art Barr's Beetlejuice was a Piper creation)—in 1988-89, before his return to the WWF broadcast booth. Booker Len Denton carried out Piper's direction well and has maintained an up-tempo pace to the show. Announcer Don Coss experienced a resurgence of enthusiasm with the new format.

Long-time Portland follower Greg Anderson told us Tuesday night, "It's like losing a member of the family. I grew up watching this show and it just won't seem right without it being around on Saturday nights."

The story ended with an all-too-familiar ring. KPTV is negotiating with both the WWF and WCW for a syndicated barter show as a replacement. No matter the choice, the station will have a high-gloss, pre-packaged, no-cost hour program which will likely dwarf the Owen shows in production values. But somehow, the Portlands and the Memphises of the world have been like a weekly TV letter from home in the midst of today's antiseptic, glitzy national series. But the mail has almost stopped. Life will go on but the loss of the Crow's Nest and the Fiesta Garden will be like separating from an old friend. We'll live—but all we have left are a volume of TV memories.





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## IDIOTS

Dec. 2-8

(PORTLAND) - John Rambo d.

Dirty White Boy, who tries to attack John after. Rambo combat kicks DWB, who flees; (SEG) Billy Jack Haynes tells Brickhouse Brown he's in most prejudiced territory in U.S., saying no black has worked here since '83. Brick rejects bid to join Klan, saying fans treat him well & he won't call them "welfare idiots;" Jesse Barr d. Mike Miller (turning heel) on reversal when Brick tells ref Miller has feet on ropes for pin; (LUMBERJACK/TAR & FEATHER MATCH) Steve Doll/Grappler d. Bruise Bros. & Harris get molasses & feathers poured on; (FIESTA GARDEN) Bruises vow revenge; Brown d. Miller on reversal when Barr tells ref BJH tripped Brick. Miller uses 2x4 on both faces & clotheslines them; Al Madril (masked) d. Mike Winner w. loaded mask. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Tito Santana d. Brooklyn Brawler; Ric Flair d. Phil Apollo; Jake Roberts d. Mark Thomas; Bossman d. Mario Mancini; Sgt. Slaughter/Jim Duggan d. Dwayne Gill/Barry Hardy; Repo Man d. Bill Pierce; (SPEC. REPORT) Jack Tunney holds up WWF belt because Hulk Hogan throws ashes in Undertaker's face. ROYAL RUMBLE winner to be new champion with Hogan/Undertaker to draw between nos. 20-30; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Hogan on title situation. Same on SOW. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Legion of Doom d. Masked Jobbers; Mountie d. Al Phillips; Ted DiBiase d. Brian Costello; (UPDATE) Same as WC Special Report; New Foundation d. Kato/Pete Weeks; Nasty Boys d. Paul Perez/Mario Mancini. Piper walks out as broadcaster during match to dedicate himself to winning ROYAL RUMBLE. Piper gets phone call from Tunney inviting him to enter RUMBLE; Greg Valentine d. Barry Horowitz. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - Denise Storm d. Allison Royal; Rockin' Robin d. Black Venus; Susan Green d. Samantha Paine; Wendy Richter d. Lelani Kal; (CORNETTE'S CORNER) Jim w. Bugaloo Brown/Black Venus; BONI'S UP CLOSE & PERSONAL) Blackstone w. Richter. BOMB-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Horowitz d. Terry Daniels for first TV win; (REPLAY) Tug Taylor d. Mike Davis by DQ when Tom Davis pushes Tug off top rope. Terry Garvin saves; Davis Bros. d. Ben Jordan/Rick Garren; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino says Marcos Villas will clear up Max Andrews situation next week & reviews Steve Dane's Korea tour, Horowitz; (REPLAY) Garvin wins 12-man battle royal; (REPLAY/GLOBAL TV TITLE) Eddie Gilbert d. Garvin to retain belt holding trunks; Bull Pain d. Sam Houston when Chris Love holds Bull's leg & Sam misses bulldog. DRAW.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Tue.]: Pain d. Jordan; (SEG) DeTruth is coming; Black Bart/Rattlesnake Raltz d. Dogs of War; Houston d. Buster Blackheart; Taylor/Garvin d. Horowitz/Ed Robinson; Bill Irwin d. Rod Price; Mr. Mystery (Chaz) d. T. Davis by DQ when Mike Davis runs in. Tug saves. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [Wed.]: (REPLAY) Garvin wins 12-man battle royal; Brian Lee d. Mike Stetson; Irwin d. Price; Raltz d. Dane by DQ when Steve brings noose into ring; Gary Young d. Buster Blackheart; Taylor d. Davis by DQ (see ML). DRAW.

[Thu.]: Raltz d. Dane by DQ when Dane brings noose into ring; Davises d. Garren/Larry Green; Irwin d. Scott Anthony by DQ when Coast-to-Coast Connection runs in & pounds on Bill but Wild Bunch saves & 6-man brawl erupts as Scotty sits & watches; (NEWSROOM) Joe on "missing" Andrews, Tug, Pain/Samantha; Young d. Buster Blackheart; Renegade Warriors d. Tony George/Butch Blackheart; John Tatum/Price d. Irwin/Black Bart when Tatum superkicks Bill off Rod. DRAW.

(NEW PWTW) -

[GA./1989] Comrade Busch d. Tim Ashley; (GLOBAL) 1. Soultaker d. George. 2. Gilbert d. Irwin;

(CLASSIC/CWA) Bill Dundee/Adrian Street d. Hollywood Blondes; (LPWA) Reggie Bennett d. Diane Von Hoffman; (INTL/STAMPEDE/6-MAN) Chris Benoit/Owen Hart/Biff Wellington d. Cuban Assassin/Johnny Smith/Moore. RESTHOLD.

(IWCCW) - Ivan & Scott Putski d. Austin/Green; Madison Bros. d. Equalizers; Billion \$ Babies d. Undertakers; Mondo Kleen d. Al Phillips; Ray Oddyssey d. Kim Serafino; Other winner: Tazmaniac; (REPLAY/IWCCW TITLE) Tony Atlas d. Vic Steamboat to regain belt. BOMB.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: {OPEN} Tunney rulings; Bushwhackers d. Horowitz/Brian Costello; Col. Mustafa d. Al Phillips; Bret Hart d. Chris Duffy; (MILLION \$ BELT) Dibiase d. Virgil; Bossman d. Vito Krus; Davey Boy Smith double countout vs. Mountie; Skinner Keirn d. Dale Wolfe; Santana d. Barbarian; (SEGS) Hogan/Taker on Texas rematch; Repo Man d. Apollo; Natural Disasters d. Mike Samples/Greg Green. RESTHOLD.

[ALL-AMERICAN]: Santana d. Brawler; (UPDATE) Tunney on WWF title situation; Mountie d. Phillips; Roberts d. Thomas; (I-C TITLE) Hart d. Barbarian to retain belt; Nasties d. Perez/Mancini; (RUMBLE REPORT) Same as SYN shows; Valentine d. Horowitz. Piper gets phone invitation from Tunney to enter RUMBLE then quits booth to prepare. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Greg Bobchick d. Crusader; Ivan Koff d. Tyrone Knox; Vladimir Koloff d. Jerry Rose; (SAPW WOMEN'S TITLE) Bambi d. Peggy Lee Leathers to retain belt; (SEG) Manny Fernandez stripped of SAPW title. Tourney skedded for new champ Jan. 11. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [FLA. TITLE] Jumbo Baretta d. Superstar to retain belt. NO RATING.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Rick Rude d. Jim Boss; Arachnabrad d. Mark Cantaberry; Arn Anderson/Bobby Eaton d. Tom Zenk/P.N. News; (WNN) Gordon Solle w. Steamboat/Rhodes WCW world tag title win & tribute to Dick the Bruiser; Big Van Vader d. T.C. Carter; Scott Steiner d. Curtis Hughes. DRAW.

[WORLD WIDE]: Diamond Stud d. Ian Weston; (HANDICAP) Hughes d. Scott Sandlin/Buddy Baker; Steve Austin/Eaton d. Freebirds; (WNN) Same as PRO; Rude d. Larry Santo; Cactus Jack double countout vs. Van Hammer. DRAW.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Hammer d. Bob Cook; Cactus d. Peter Dumas; Vader d. Mike McReynolds; P.N.N. d. Cantaberry; Rude d. Todd Champion; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Justin Liger clips; (WCW LT. HWT. TITLE) Brian Pillman d. Richard Morton to retain belt but Morton pilledrives Brian after. Mike Graham chases him. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Rick Steiner d. Greg Sawyer; (OMNI/U.S. TITLE) Rude d. Sting by DQ when Sting caught dumping Rude over top rope, despite Madusa Miceli's run-in. Sting clobbers Rude w. phone & chases Madusa/Paul E. in ring until Rude kicks Sting's knee; (WCW MAGAZINE) Eric Bischoff on Dangerous Alliance; Terrence Taylor d. Scott Allen; (8-MAN) Patriots/P.N.N./Pillman d. Young Pistols/Morton/Thomas Rich; (NEW JAPAN) Liger d. Benoit; Diamond Exchange d. Brian Lee/Chris Sullivan; Big Josh d. Jim Clontz; (OMNI/WCW WORLD TAG TITLE) Steamboat/Rhodes draw vs. Anderson/Eaton; Rhodes d. Eaton but Alliance jumps Dustin after & Bobby comes off top

SCALE: PINEFALL - Must See. PILEDRIIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

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on his leg until Pillman/Graham save. **DRAW-PLUS.**

[MAIN EVENT]: (CAGE/6-MAN) Rhodes/Josh/Zenk d. York Foundation; Hammer d. John Peterson; (WCW MAGAZINE) Same as yesterday; (ROSS REPORT) Jim w. Paul E. Dangerously/Rick Rude; El Gigante d. Mike Fever; (U.S. TAG TITLE) Patriots d. Young Pistols to retain belts. **RESTHOLD.**

(USWA/WMC) - Moondogs d. The Warrior/Spirit of America; (SEG) Eric Embry, with new colffe & tallored clothes, Intros new girlfriend C.J.; (USWA WORLD TITLE) Jerry Lawler vs. Kimbala no contest when Kimbala uses chair on Jerry & shoves ref Frank Morrell, then Jerry burns Kimbala. Morrell holds up title; Tony Falk vs. Tom Prichard never starts when Eric attacks Prichard & DDTs him on bell & floor; Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller d. Doug Masters/Bart Sawyer when Jarrett ducks & Sawyer dropkicks Masters. After, Doug & Bart shake hands, then Doug ambushes Bart w. knucks & pounds on him; (ANGLE) Masters says he'll face both Fuller/Jarrett solo in 2nd fall but Richard Lee offers Moondog Spike to team w. Doug. Fuller/Jarrett d. Masters/Sawyer by DQ when Spot runs in & Moondogs use bones to cut open Fuller/Jarrett. Sawyer enters & brawls on floor w. Masters. **POWERSLAM.**

(JERRY LAWLER SHOW) - Jerry tells viewers of critical injury to Ricky Gibson and open heart surgery of Jarrett Promotions employee Guy Coffey. **NO RATING.**

## LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Black Bart, ESPN: "Sam Houston hits you so hard, he knocks the boogers right outta your dad-gum nose." 2. Jim Cornette, LPWA: "I was trying to get all of these people a bar of soap, so I could stand to be in with them all night." 3. Jim Ross, PH: "Paul E. would make Don King look demure." 4. Joe Pedicino/Cornette, LPWA: (JC) "She was choking her." (JP) "She was massaging her throat." 5. Gorilla Monsoon/Bobby Heenan, SOW: (GM) "When it's least expected..." (BH) "...You're elected, you're the star today. Smle...you've been DDT'd." 6. Ross, WCW, on Jim Clontz: "He looks like Carlton the Doorman." 7. Scott Anthony, MLW: "Like I say: a good boot to the belly beats the Metamucil every time." 8. Craig Johnson/Samantha Paine, ESPN: (CJ) "I don't know what the jackpot is for the secret word today." (SP) "The jackpot is I'm standing out here by you and you can't hardly stand it, I'm so pretty." 9. Samantha/Johnson, ESPN: (SP) "I've told you all you need to know about Steve Dane." (CJ) "I'm sure if you haven't, you'd let me know." 10. Johnson, ESPN, on Butch Blackheart: "He's the kind of guy you don't want to meet in a dark alley--or, for that fact, a lit one." 11. Ross, PH: "P.N. News gave a new meaning to the word cannonball dive on the Bruise Cruise. Almost emptied the pool." 12. Ross, WCW: "Big Josh looks like his face ought to be on a can of beef stew." 13. Skandor Akbar, ESPN: "Remember those officials in the Missouri-Colorado game when Colorado got a fifth down? Those were my Officials of the Year." 14. Johnson/Scott Hudson/Boni Blackstone, MLW, on Barry Horowitz: (BB) "I think we ought to give him 'A' for effort." (CJ) "We can give him all the 'A's we want to but it's the 'W's these guys are counting." (SH) "A & W? Is that some new kind of sponsorship we have here?" 15. Anthony/Hudson, MLW: (SH) "You're just mad because they're not yelling Scotty, Scotty!" (SA) "You're just mad because we played racquetball on your forehead." 16. Robert Fuller, WMC: "Mr. Nice Guy was buried today." 17. Steven DeTruth, PWTW: "People ask me why can't that dweeb Scott Hudson

act like a human being. I tell them it's because he doesn't do impressions." 18. DeTruth, MLW: "The GWF fans have more eyeballs than I.Q." 19. DeTruth, PWTW: "We're now going to an area called Bruiser Bedlam, which is where many of the older wrestlers went to wrestle in their twilight years. Maybe we should call it Geriatric Bedlam." 20. Rick Rude, WWW, on Paul E.'s Greek: "To the boys in the hood, that means: you be in some deep dog doodoo, Sting."

21. Gene Okerlund, SOW, on Jack Tunney: "Our president is not the most agile person." 22. Ross, PRO, on Paul E.: "He's bouncing around like a kid with an unlimited gift certificate at a Toys 'R' Us." 23. Ross, JIM ROSS SHOW, on rumors: "Paul can't call anybody. He's in Europe."

**STRONGEST COMMENTS** - 1. Ross, PH, on light heavyweights: "I hope the fans and the promoters will give this division the respect it deserves." 2. Monsoon, PTW, on Tunney: "Sometimes, mentally, he's somewhere else." 3. Roddy Piper, SOW, to Curt Hennig: "Interfere in one of my matches and the only person you'll be consulting is David Duke."

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK** - 1. Piper, SOW: "How come it takes three months to get Savage reinstated and less than a week to make this decision (holding up belt)?" 2. Hennig, SOW: "Can you imagine sticking Slaughter's face in Knobbs' armpit?" 3. Hennig, AA: "Know where they got Scotch tape from? Taping all the Scottish mouths shut."

**BEST PICTURES** - 1. WCW, Jushin Liger with Frankenstein off top on Chris Benoit. 2. PH, Little girl at ringside on POWER HOUR holding up Hulk Hogan wrestling buddy." 3. TTIT, Hogan tossing ashes. 4. TTIT, Flair being bashed into Tunney. 5. ESPN, Johnson being caught in middle of Coast-to-Coast Connection-Wild Bunch scuffle. 6. WCW, Sting dumping Rude over top &lobbering Rick w. phone. 7. WCW, Madusa Micell karate kicking Dustin. 8. WCW, Double chair bashing of Dustin by Bobby Eaton. 9. MLW, Barry Horowitz becoming "The Winner." 10. ESPN, Raitz putting noose around Boni Blackstone's neck. 11. ESPN, Anthony choking Irwin. 12. ESPN, Tatum in Samurai headband. 13. WMC, Sawyer drop-kicking Masters & subsequent brawl. 14. WWW, Madusa flying off top onto Michael Hayes.

**NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK** - 1. DEEP SOUTH SWAMP SOWS (Rude on Gainesville fans). 2. WCW'S JEZEBEL (Ross on Madusa). 3. DIVOTHEAD (Hennig on Okerlund). 4. BANANA BREATH (Heenan on Monsoon). 5. KEEBLER ELF SUCKER (Piper on Hennig).

**KEITH JACKSON IMPERSONATION** - Johnson, MLW: "Whoa, Nellie."

**SHORT MEMORY AWARD** - Tony Schiavone, WWW: "Nobody has been able to put this big guy (Curtis Hughes) down for the 3-count yet." Didn't Rick Steiner do it on WCW?

**ALL-CLICHE TEAM** - 1. Bull Pain, ESPN: "...the bigger they are, the harder they fall." 2. Gary Young, ESPN: "...out of the blue." 3. Hulk Hogan, SOW: "The opera's not over 'til the fat lady sings."

**BLOOPER AWARD** - ALL-AMERICAN, for airing match with Piper quitting broadcast booth and next match, he's back.

**BOO AWARDS** - 1. Jake Roberts, WWF, for hitting Liz Poffo. 2. WCW, for adding Americanized crowd noise to Liger-Benoit match. 3. USWA/WMC, for yet another needless blood angle with Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller. Enough said?



## *Presented This Week*

# FLORIDA MAT BILL COVERS 74 PAGES

**TALLAHASSEE FL---**A mammoth 74-page bill to revamp guidelines for the Florida Athletic Commission to govern boxing and wrestling was scheduled for presentation to a Florida House panel this week.

Among the wrestling proposals, drafted by Janet Clark, a part of the Florida House Committee on Regulated Industries, the bill would:

---Require of license fees for the following: promoter, \$500; wrestler, \$100; referee, \$100; booker, \$250; manager, \$100. All are minimum fees.

---Require any wrestler over 45 or referee over 50 to have physical exam to be granted a license.

---Ban advertising of performers or matches when promoters know in advance they will not appear or be staged.

---Require a doctor's presence at cards and physical exams for all performers within 12 hours of cards.

---Ban wrestlers from participating in two or more matches within a 24-hour period of a card.

---Place a 5% tax on arena and pay-per-view cards.

One Florida attorney has told MATWATCH the bill is unlikely to pass because the Florida Legislature is far more focused on the state's financial debt.

**ATLANTA BOUND?:** Talk in Dallas Friday night was The Patriot (Del Wilkes) was on the verge of signing with WCW. Del has already had a WWF tryout but as of Sunday, he had reportedly not been signed by Atlanta.

**FOPPISH SET:** WCW's guys in England and Scotland this week. Ticket sales were still languishing as of last midweek but promotion felt compelled to go ahead.

**CALLING OFF:** WCW has backed out of a skedded January show at the Met Center in the Minneapolis area. Gary Juster says the group may try to come in the spring.

**LBN HEAT:** Considerable heat came from WCW personnel over an item in the LATE-BREAKING NEWS arena insert we told you about last week. Tommy Rich was said to be furious over a line which suggested Tommy smuggled beer into the locker room.

**AND MORE HEAT:** One insider told us an apology was issued to Scott Hall's wife over a line suggesting the Diamond Stud was seeing a number of girls around the arenas. Plus, Paul Heyman was said to be irritated over quotes attributed to him he reportedly did not say.

**NAMEDROPPERS:** On his 900 line and his WSB-AM show Sunday, Jim Ross said The Ultimate Warrior, Steve Williams, Terry Gordy and Keiji Mutoh were among names

"rumored" to be coming into WCW but underscored no contracts had been signed. Of that four, Muta is the most likely to appear in the first quarter. Unless his contract demands have come down, Warrior is the least likely.

**CLASH SALES:** Tickets go on sale Saturday for the WCW CLASH set for Topeka Jan. 21.

**GIBSON INJURED:** Ricky Gibson--Robert's older brother--a top mid-70s name in Georgia and the Gulf Coast, is recovering from critical injuries suffered in an auto accident. Cards may be sent to Ricky at: ICU, 2nd Floor, West Florida Hospital, 8383 N. Davis Hwy., Pensacola FL 32504.

**COFFEY RECOVERING:** Some of you Memphis veterans are familiar with Guy Coffey, who's worked for years with the Jarrett office. He's had open heart surgery in the last week.

**THE 10TH TIME:** Monday night, Jerry Lawler--who had won a ninth USWA title reign last week--went after Kimala in a rematch. The belt was held up when the two met on TV Saturday.

**ALSO MONDAY:** The rest of the Mid-South Coliseum card: Spirit of America (Randy Lewis) vs. Tony Falk; Bart Sawyer vs. Tony Anthony; Doug Masters vs. Candyman; Warrior vs. Sandman; Tom Prichard vs. Eric Embry for the Southern title (Prichard has it) with Falk's hair on the line; and the Moondogs defending the USWA tag belts again vs. Robert Fuller/Jeff Jarrett.

**NEW INDIE IN KC:** Jay French is planning to launch his new Piledriver Promotion Dec. 28 with Butch Reed, Kimala, Bob Orton Jr., Honky Tonk Man, Skandor Akbar, John Tatum, Rod Price and Bulldog Bob Brown listed.

**TEXAS TRYOUTS:** Among the guys getting Titan tryouts before THIS TUESDAY IN TEXAS: Brian Lee (a loser to Chris Walker), Ron & Don Harris (who beat Brian Costello & Brian Donahue--Brian Keith couldn't make it) and Chris Adams (who beat B.A. Dalton). The Soultaker also appeared as Sir Charles and J.W. Storm lost to Chris Chavis.

**COACH GILBERT:** Eddie reportedly had a 10-minute pep talk with the Global guys in the locker room after the Friday show in Dallas. He wasn't happy, in particular, with the execution of a brawl toward the end and simply asked how many guys were with the program and how many weren't.

**DARKWING DEBUT:** Doug Gilbert debuted as The Dark Patriot, penciled in for an initial feud with Del Wilkes.

**IN FOCUS:** Many, many thanks to Wade Keller and Bruce Mitchell for making us feel at home on Wade's PRO WRESTLING FOCUS on KFAN in Minneapolis Saturday night. This week, FOCUS airs at noon with possible guests Nick Bockwinkel, Mick Karch and George Shire to reminisce about the days of AWA.

**WRITE YOUR MANAGER:** Disheartening news to hear SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE with Karch may be in jeopardy with the ownership change of Mick's station. You in the Twin Cities area who enjoy SNR write the station to express your views.

**CODY'S BACK:** Cody Boyns has returned to WALE in Providence with a Sunday night talkfest. Joe Pedicino was his guest last week. I'll be on board Jan. 5.

(Continued on Page 6)

# MATWATCH

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But **ALL-AM** Rallies

## RATINGS RAP

### WCW VAULTS BACK TO TOP SPOT

Continuing to pull its most impressive ratings in more than a year, **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** regained the top spot for the tenth time in 12 weeks in the Nielsen cable ratings race.

WCW's 3.3 rating and 6.5 per cent share of audience was just a nudge ahead of the surge by **WWF ALL-AMERICAN** to a 3.2/7.8 Dec. 1.

The Nov. 3 rating was the second straight 3.3 for WCW and the numbers were up 14% over last year. **ALL-AMERICAN** was up a whopping 60% over its year-ago rating.

**WCW MAIN EVENT** posted a 2.4, a drop of 15% from the previous week while **PRIME TIME WRESTLING** stayed at its fall average of 2.3.

After two strong weeks over a 2, **WCW POWER HOUR** fell to a 1.7/6.7.

### CABLE

| Week Ending Dec. 2           | Rating/Share | Total Homes  | Year Ago |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| WCW World Champ. (TBS 11/30) | 3.3/6.5      | 1.9 million  | 2.9/5.5  |
| WWF All-American (USA 12/1)  | 3.2/7.8      | 1.85 million | 2.0/5.4  |
| WCW Main Event (TBS 12/1)    | 2.4/4.0      | 1.39 million | 2.6/4.6  |
| WWF Prime Time (USA 12/2)    | 2.3/3.4      | 1.33 million | 2.5/3.9  |
| WCW Power Hour (TBS 11/30)   | 1.7/6.7      | 982,600      | 1.5/6.0  |

### MATWATCHING

(From Page 5)

**CORRECTIONS:** Max Thrasher holds the VWF title, not AWF, as listed last week. And the number for info on the WIN card Feb. 7 in Dundalk MD is (410) 833-1663.

**GO ON, SEND 'EM IN:** For all newsletter editors: because of so many requests to list other bulletins with our impending retirement, we will offer a catalogue in our double issue at Christmas. But editors, I need a card or a quick phone call on my machine listing frequency of publication, cost, address and brief description of content. List if you offer a sample for a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

### FINAL MATWATCH RATES

If your mailing label says **FINAL ISSUE**, the cost to subscribe through the closing issue of **MATWATCH** Jan. 27 is \$8.75 (U.S./Canada), \$13.50 (Overseas).

For succeeding closeout rates, check below:

| Expiration Date | U.S./Canada | Overseas |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| 12/16/91        | \$7.50      | \$12.00  |
| 12/23/91        | \$6.25      | \$10.50  |
| 12/30/91        | \$5.00      | \$9.00   |
| 1/6/92          | \$3.75      | \$7.00   |
| 1/13/92         | \$2.50      | \$5.00   |
| 1/20/92         | \$1.25      | \$3.00   |

Check, cash or money order to: **MATWATCH**, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

### An Update

## Titan Commits To 52 Weeks of BODYSTARS

**NEW YORK**--Titan Sports' **BODYSTARS**, a new fitness series, has been given a firm go for 52 weeks of production, according to **ELECTRONIC MEDIA**.

Updating a story in last week's **MATWATCH**, Titan is now targeting the series' launch in the summer of 1992. Titan is yet to start station sales but will be targeting weekend late afternoon or late night slots.

Basil De Vito Jr., Titan's senior vice president of marketing and promotions, told **EM** Titan Entertainment could have as many as 13 episodes completed by the end of the first quarter. But the remainder of shows will be produced as close to air date as possible to remain current.

Titan will attempt to spin the show on the international market and develop lines of products to market in connection with its World Bodybuilding Federation.

Matt Lauer and Karl Wuhrer have been tapped as co-hosts of the series. John Fillipelli, currently executive producer for the World Wrestling Federation series, will handle the same role for **BODYSTARS**. Former NBC Sports segment producer Cary Glotzer is coordinating producer and another NBC veteran, J.D. Hansen, will direct.

### 1991 Annual

## MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER

The complex personality of Eddie Gilbert, the struggles of Joe Pedicino to carve a national niche in pro wrestling, the cycle of Jim Crockett from bankrupt promoter to catalyst for a TV ratings revival for WCW and a myriad of personalities and stories compose **MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER**, our review of the best and rest of 1991 in TV wrestling and our swan song to four years of publication.

**THE FINAL CHAPTER** will be published near Feb. 28. Price: \$13 (U.S./Canada), \$21 (Overseas).

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